

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03

SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 /101 W

----- 068964

R 290745Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3852

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6282

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, RP, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTEREST IN AIR TRAFFIC RIGHTS IN PHILIPPINES

REF: MANILA 2838

1. SOVIET THREE-MAN CIVIL AIR DELEGATION HEADED BY AEROFLOT DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER VLADIMIR TIKHONOV AND INCLUDING VLADIMIR D. SAMOROUKOV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOVIET CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, ARRIVED MANILA MAY 27 TO PURSUE AEROFLOT'S LONG-STANDING APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC RIGHTS BETWEEN PHILIPPINES AND SINGAPORE AND TOKYO.

2. SAMOROUKOV TOLD AP CORRESPONDENT: "WE ARE READY ANYTIME TO INAUGURATE THE FLIGHT. IT IS UP TO THE PHILIPPINES. WE HAVE FILED OUR PROPOSAL SINCE JANUARY 1973". AT RECEPTION HONORING DELEGATION GIVEN BY AEROPHIL, INC., NEWLY ESTABLISHED CENTRAL SALES AGENT FOR AEROFLOT, PHILIPPINE CAB EXEC DIRECTOR AGCAOILI TOLD EMBOFF THAT CAB STILL HAS AEROFLOT APPLICATION UNDER STUDY. HE SAID ANY GRANTING OF RIGHTS WOULD BE DONE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS SINCE PHILIPPINES HAD NO INTEREST IN RECIPROCAL TRAFFIC RIGHTS IN USSR. FURTHERMORE, AEROFLOT SERVICE NOT LIKELY TO ADD APPRECIABLY TO TOURIST TRAVEL TO PHILIPPINES.

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3. AGCAOILI WAS QUITE CONFIDENT GOP WOULD NOT GRANT AIR RIGHTS BEFORE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE INDICATED THIS DECISION IS ONE PRESIDENT MARCOS WILL MAKE IN LIGHT ALL FACTORS INCLUDING GOP INTEREST IN SIMULTANEOUS ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND MOSCOW.

4. ACCORDING TO AN AEROPHIL EXECUTIVE, DECISIONS REGARDING OPENING OF COMPANY'S OFFICES, EXPECTED TO BE IN FILIPINAS HOTEL ACROSS FROM US EMBASSY, AND OTHER ARRANGMENTS FOR AEROFLOT REPRESENTATION ARE BEING MADE BY MA'AN HONTIVEROS (REFTTEL), ALTHOUGH HER PRECISE POSITION IN FIRM WAS NOT CLEAR. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, FORMER CONGRESSMAN ROQUE ABLAN, WHO HAS AN UNSAVORY OLD SOCIETY REPUTATION BUT APPARENTLY STILL RETAINS SOME OF HIS FORMER CONNECTIONS WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS, IS AN IMPORTANT BACKGROUND FIGURE IN AEROPHIL.

5. SOVIETS HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN TOKYO-MANILA-SINGAPORE RIGHTS TO LINK THEIR PRESENT TWO EAST ASIAN TERMINALS. HOWEVER, SAMOROUKOV TOLD AP AND CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT THEY ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL RIGHTS. ACCORDING TO AP, SOVIETS WISH TO EXTEND PROPOSED MOSCOW-TOKYO-MANILA ROUTE TO AUSTRALIA AND/OR NEW ZEALAND. IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS OF AEROFLOT APPLICATIONS, PHIL CAB OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THEY WOULD RECOMMEND ONLY MANILA-SINGAPORE RIGHTS SINCE MANILA-TOKYO ROUTE ALREADY HEAVILY TRAFFICKED WITH A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF ASIAN AND EUROPEAN AIRLINES, AND THIS IS MARKET PHILIPPINE AIRLINES ITSELF WISHES TO DEVELOP.  
SULLIVAN

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